THIS IS A

REFERENCE WORK

for

Editors, Authors, Publishers, and Research Workers

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of the
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Supreme Grand Lodge
A. M. O. R. C.



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# Introduction

THE hieroglyphic inscriptions on the temples of Egypt, though in existence for centuries, remained a mystery to modern man until the discovery and deciphering of the Rosetta Stone which became a key to their meaning. The Rosicrucian Order, though in active existence for centuries, is also not known to some persons, institutions, or organizations as it should be, because of the lack, heretofore, of a concise work referring to its objects, practices, and history. A number of recognized literary reference sources, such as the encyclopedias, refer to the organization, but they are not always available and it is for this reason that this brochure is prepared. It is hoped that it will also be a key to the solution of any mysteries which, it may seem to some, surround the world-wide activities of the Rosicrucian Order.

This brochure has been published with an appreciation of the need of editors, publishers, authors, and research workers, for brief, relevant facts pertaining to the subject of *The Rosicrucians*. Therefore, all unessential information has been deleted and left for elaboration to the larger bound works on the subject. For further convenience, this brochure has been divided into two parts and the classifications indicated below:



## *The* ROSICRUCIANS

AMORC

**Rosicrucian Park, San Jose, California, U. S. A.**

## PART ONE

# What Are the Rosicrucians?

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## Nature of the Organization

The Rosicrucian Order is, broadly, a world-wide fraternal organization, established and operating on a lodge system. It expounds a system of metaphysical and physical philosophy intended to awaken the dormant, latent faculties of the individual whereby he may utilize to a better advantage his natural talents and lead a more useful and happy life. It accomplishes this end by a method of personal instruction and guidance. The member is taught the significance and application of the Cosmic and natural laws which are found manifest in the universe around him and in himself. It unites into one *livable philosophy*, metaphysical idealism and such practical sciences as physics, chemistry, biology, physiology, and psychology. It also seeks, by its educational campaign, to rid society of the enslaving influence of superstition.

The Order, throughout the world, is divided into jurisdictions, in each of which there are established Grand Lodges with temples of instruction. The Supreme Temple for the North and South American jurisdiction is located in San Jose, California. (For history, see page 8.)

## What Does the Name Mean?

The word "Rosicrucian" is the Anglicized form of the original Latin name of the Order Rosae Crucis, which means *of the rosy cross*. The name is derived from the Order's centuries-old symbol—*the cross* and a single red *rose*. Although the symbol consists of a cross, it has no sectarian or strictly religious significance, but an allegorical meaning of its own.

"Rosicrucian" is pronounced: Ro'-zi-kru'-shan.

## What Does A. M. O. R. C. Mean?

The initials, A. M. O. R. C., are an abbreviation of the words, "The Ancient Mystical Order Rosae Crucis," which is the complete name of the Order throughout the world. In Latin, the full title of the Order was originally: *Antiquus Arcanus Ordo Rosae Rubeae et Aureae Crucis.* In various lands at various times the Order has been known by slightly different abbreviations of the original Latin title. The initials, A. M. O. R. C., usually following the popular phrase, The Rosicrucian Order, to designate authenticity.

## Is It a Religion?

The Rosicrucian Order is absolutely NOT a religious movement or sect. It is non-sectarian in every respect. As its membership is world-wide, it of course includes persons *of every creed* and denomination, as does any other world-wide fraternity of a cultural nature. Many leading clergymen of Protestant denomination, rabbis, and priests are members; but the Order itself, in the past and at present, is *free of religious alliances.* Although its ethics adhere to the principles of Christianity, its must not be considered a religious movement or a Christian sect. The teachings and philosophical doctrines of the Order do not interfere with the religious freedom of its members.

## Is It a Commercial Enterprise?

The Supreme Grand Lodge of the AMORC (The Rosicrucian Order) is incorporated in the State of California, and its subordinate bodies are incorporated elsewhere, as a *non-profit corporation.* None of the funds of the Order enure to the personal benefit of any officer or member. There are no stock- or share-holders, and all funds of the Order are held in trust to further its purposes which are defined by its Constitution and Statutes. The Federal Department of Internal Revenue of the United States, the State of California, and the Dominion of Canada, recognize the non-profit status of the Rosicrucian Order by exempting it from the payment of income tax.

## What Does It Teach?

An individual listing of the subjects included in the membership curriculum would be too lengthy for the space provided here. In main, it includes such topics as the mysteries of time and space; the human consciousness; the nature of matter; perfecting the physical body; the effect of light, color and sound upon mind; the ancient philosophies; the development of will; human emotions, instincts, and their relation to personality; important discoveries in Rosicrucian chemistry and physics; explanation of the phenomena of intuition, etc., etc.

The organization maintains an extensive editorial and research department composed of men and women of its membership who are authorities in specialized fields of science and literature, as well as being well versed in Rosicrucianism. The instructions are either delivered orally in temples of the Order to the members, or sent privately to them in manuscript form. The subjects are accompanied by experiments which the members must conduct in order to remove the material from the realm of theory and make it entirely practical and applicable, by demonstration, to his or her personal life. Highly speculative, fantastic, or improbable subject matter is *not included in the teachings of the Rosicrucians.*

## Who May Become Members?

Any law-abiding citizen of either sex and over twenty-one years of age, of good repute and having a firm conviction in a Supreme Being, is eligible for membership in the Grand Lodge of the Rosicrucian Order regardless of creed or financial status. *Thus, the organization includes in its membership* a cross section of all classes of peoples. Its membership includes humble manual laborers seeking to better themselves, and also prominent business men, directors of industries, physicians, attorneys, scientists, artists, editors, educators, and authors, who find the teachings stimulating and very livable.

Those desiring membership may write to the Rosicrucian Order at its Grand Lodge in San Jose, California, requesting free literature which fully explains membership and its benefits.

# What Rosicrucians are NOT

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## Not Affiliated with Freemasonry, Theosophy or Any Other Organization

The Rosicrucian Order (AMORC) has always been and IS an independent Order. It never was and is not sponsored by or a part of any other movement, society, or organization. It has at times during the centuries of its existence entered into a federation of orders or fraternities of like nature, but it has never submerged its individuality in such a federation or forfeited its independent functioning. Regardless of the similarity some persons may believe exists between the honorable Freemasonic Order and the Rosicrucian Order (AMORC), there is, in fact, no relationship between the two orders.

## Does Not Teach Astrology, Fortune Telling

The Rosicrucian Order *does not teach, indorse,* or practice astrology, fortune telling, crystal gazing, numerology, or any other past or present superstitions, or similar popular pseudo-scientific practices. Furthermore, it neither teaches, practices, nor recommends spiritualism or hypnotism.

## No Strange Practices or Rites

Rosicucianism makes no demands upon its members that would obligate them to conduct themselves in any manner that would bring them into public ridicule or condemnation. The members are not required to dress, eat, or act any differently than would be expected of any intelligent and morally responsible man or woman in the conduct of his or her ordinary affairs. The members resort to no practices or rites which in any sense are injurious to health, family relationships, or morals.

# History of the Rosicrucians

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## Traditional History

Traditionally, the Rosicrucian Order traces its origin to the *mystery schools* or secret schools of learning established during the reign of Thutmose III, about 1500 B. C., in Egypt. Though he devoted himself seriously to an investigation of "the mysteries"—in other words, natural phenomena—Thutmose III still clung to the ancient religions of the period. His descendant, Amenhotep IV, 1355 B. C., known as the heretic king, also became leader of the mystery schools; but, being extremely progressive, he abolished the polytheistic religions of the time to advance in their stead the world's first *doctrine of monotheism. The Rosicrucians look* upon Amenhotep IV as their traditional first Grand Master.

From Egypt, the secret teachings of the brotherhood spread into Greece, and thence into Rome. During the Middle Ages they were concealed under a variety of different names.

## Chronological Records

Chronologically, the Order is mentioned as far back as 1115 A. D., in a book of the collection of Brother "Omnis Mariar" in Germany. It rose to considerable prominence during the Sixteenth Century when, following the invention of the printing press, a small pamphlet entitled "The Fama Fraternitatis" was issued and given wide circulation. It was said to have been written by a theologian, Johonn Valentine Andrea (1586-1654). The pamphlets were part of a campaign for its revival. The Order first came to America in 1694, locating in what is now Fairmount Park, Philadelphia.

For a detailed history of the Order, refer to the fourteenth edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica; current edition of the Encyclopedia Americana; New Standard Encyclopedia; and "Rosicrucian Questions and Answers with Complete History of the Order," by Dr. H. Spencer Lewis, available in public libraries.

# Current Rosicrucian Activities

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## Rose-Croix University

The Rosicrucian Order maintains, as part of its cultural program, what is known as the *Rose-Croix University*. The buildings of the University are located in Rosicrucian Park, San Jose, California. The University is divided into three distinct colleges: The College of Fine Arts; The College of Mundane and Arcane Science; and The College of Humanities.

The Science Building of the University contains well equipped modern laboratories. The faculty members have academic degrees from world-recognized universities in their chosen fields of teaching. Students from all over the world attend the University's special semesters. The University is strictly a non-commercial venture.

(For picture of the Rose-Croix University Science Building, see page 22.)

## National Board of Lectureship

An especially equipped motor truck, carrying sound motion picture equipment and films and scientific devices to demonstrate the Order's teachings, and accompanied by a trained lecturer and a technician, visits all the principal cities of the United States annually. *In each city, lectures and demonstrations* are given not only to the membership of the Order, but to the general public as well, without charge. The lecturer and technician are part of the National Board of Lectureship of the Rosicrucian Order.

## Support of Public Libraries

Every public library in every city of 5,000 or more population, in North and South America, receives, in English or Spanish, one or more of the large, bound, philosophical Rosicrucian works gratis. As readers' demands increase, additional copies are sent without cost to the library.

## Planetarium

The Rosicrucian Planetarium, located in Rosicrucian Park, San Jose, California, and built at considerable cost, is one of the six planetariums in the United States. It is the only one entirely built and designed in America. It is called "The Theatre of the Sky," because it presents the greatest drama of all the ages, the mythological traditions and Cosmic roles of the planets and stars, revealing their surprising astronomical mysteries and giving young and old a clearer conception of the wonders of the heavens.

The foyer of the Planetarium building houses a seismograph for recording earthquakes, a Cosmic Ray Coincidence Counter, a Uranisphere, and many other scientific instruments for demonstrating astronomical and terrestrial phenomena.

(For picture of the Rosicrucian Planetarium, see page 20.)

## Egyptian and Oriental Museum

The Rosicrucian Egyptia nand Oriental Museum is the largest museum devoted to Egyptian antiquities in Western United States. It contains a collection of several thousand exhibits from all parts of the Orient and from interesting centers of ancient civilizations. The exhibits consist of Egyptian mummies of human beings, animals, and birds; statuary, jewelry, utensils, clothing, and works of art of vanished races. The Museum also contains the only full-sized, exact reproduction of an ancient Egyptian rock tomb to be seen in America—such a tomb as one sees in the sandstone cliffs on the West bank of the Upper Nile. Its collection has been secured from leading museums of the world. Models of the Great Pyramid, King Tutankhamen's tomb, and other objects of historical importance enchant the visitor.

Admission to the Museum is FREE to the public as well as to members of the Rosicrucian Order. It is visited annually by hundreds of school children and thousands of adults.

(For picture of Museum Building, see page 18.)

## Statistics

The following statistics are offered to give the reader some conception of the extent of activity of the Rosicrucian Order (AMORC):

- The AMORC mail is one of the largest on the Pacific Coast—its postage expenditure amounting to more than $50,000.00 anually.
- AMORC forwards a greater number of packages, via Railway Express, than any other organization in Santa Clara Valley.
- More foreign money orders are received by AMORC monthly than by any other institution between San Francisco and Los Angeles.
- Over 6,000,000 pieces of literature are mailed to all parts of the world annually by AMORC.
- AMORC maintains the only public, free museum in San Jose, and the only strictly Egyptian and Oriental museum on the Pacific Coast.
- At every Rosicrucian Convention nearly all states in the Union, Provinces in Canada, and several foreign countries are represented.
- If all the 7,120,000 sheets of letter-size stationery used by AMORC in one year were laid end to end, they would form a path of paper from New York City to Kansas City, or 1,236 miles.
- The number of readers of magazines and newspapers in which AMORC advertisements appear monthly, equals the entire population of Turkey, or over 17,500,000 persons.
- The Reading Mail Department of AMORC reads 7,000,000 words monthly, or the equivalent of 160 standard sized volumes of 3000 pages each, of approximately 145 words to the page.

## Affiliated Jurisdictions

CANADA:

Canadian Grand Lodge, Vancouver, British Columbia.

DENMARK:

Grand Lodge of Denmark, Copenhagen.

SWEDEN:

Grand Lodge "Rosenkorset," Malmo.

HOLLAND:

*De Rosekruisers Orde, Groot-Lodge der Nederlanden*, Amsterdam.

FRANCE:

Grand Lodge, Villeneuve Saint Georges.

SWITZERLAND:

AMORC Grand Lodge, Lausanne.

CHINA:

The United Grand Lodge of China, Shanghai.

NEW ZEALAND:

Auckland Chapter AMORC, Auckland.

ENGLAND:

AMORC Grand Lodge of Great Britain, Bristol.

DUTCH AND EAST INDIES:

Grand Lodge, Java.

EGYPT:

Grand Orient of AMORC, Heliopolis.

AFRICA:

Grand Lodge of the Gold Coast, Accra.

PART TWO

# The Institution Behind The Organization

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## Integrity

The Rosicrucian Order (AMORC) is proud to refer inquiries as to its administrative practices to the San Jose, California, Chamber of Commerce.

The organization in its present form has been established in the United States for several decades and enjoys an enviable reputation in whatever community its branches or headquarters are located. It jealously guards its ancient landmarks and customs which keep its administrative conduct above reproach.

## Foundation and Stability

The ability of the Rosicrucian Order to *make good* on its promises to provide members with certain study material, and to perform the various services and provide the facilities held out to them, is possible because *of the institution behind the organization*. It owns the real property upon which its buildings stand, and there are no outstanding *obligations against either its real or its chattel property*. Financially, the Rosicrucian Order is quite capable of meeting any obligation it assumes.

The following pictures will give the reader a pictorial representation of the stability of the Rosicrucian Order.

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## PARTIAL VIEW OF ADMINISTRATION BUILDINGS

These buildings house a number of the offices and departments shown in the latter part of this booklet.







## ROSICRUCIAN PARK

A partial view fo Rosicrucian Park looking toward the Planetarium and Francis Bacon Auditorium. Benches in artistic settings are available to all who visit.



## FRANCIS BACON AUDITORIUM

This attractive Moorish structure commemorates the labor of Sir Francis Bacon, early Rosicrucian Imperator, in the interest of the Order. Here the Rosicrucian Convention sessions are held. The auditorium seats many hundreds and has such facilities as Reception and Rest Rooms, Secretary's Office, Telephone Booth, Cloak Room, etc.





## THE SHRINE OF AMENHOTEP IV, PHARAOH OF EGYPT

This artistic structure erected on the grounds of Rosicrucian Park commemorates the Initiation held by approximately a hundred Rosicrucian men and women in Karnak Temple, Egypt, in 1929.

## THE ROSICRUCIAN ORIENTAL MUSEUM

This structure is of Byzantine architecture. Unusual relics are on display, including replicas of the Rosetta Stone, and a bust of the Egyptian Queen Nefertiti.







## THE SUPREME TEMPLE ROSICRUCIAN ORDER A M O R C

In this lodge room are conducted the impressive and symbolic ritualistic convocations of the Grand Lodge

## THE ROSICRUCIAN PLANETARIUM

The Rosicrucian Planetarium is called "The Theatre of the Sky." Here is presented the greatest drama of all the ages, the mythological traditions and Cosmic roles of the planets and stars. Here one gains a clearer conception of the astronomical wonders of the heavens.







## ROSICRUCIAN RESEARCH LIBRARY

This handsome edifice of Egyptian design houses thousands of volumes on the sciences and arts, philosophy, mysticism, and occultism.



THE ROSE-CROIX SCIENCE BUILDING

This beautiful edifice of Egyptian architecture is the science building of the Rose-Croix University, located in Rosicrucian Park. It houses physics, chemistry, light, radio, and photography laboratories, as well as demonstration halls.



## THE PLAZA AND FOUNTAIN

This view is taken from the promenade of the Science building and reveals the attractive plaza, and the fountain, which at night may be magnificently illuminated. The plaza is the center for pleasant chats.

## LECTURE AND DEMONSTRATION HALL

This most modern lecture and demonstration hall is located in the science building. The wide arms of the seats make it possible for the students attending the sessions to take notes of the principal points of the professor's lectures. The amphitheatre arrangement of the hall gives each student an unobstructed view of the platform and demonstration table.







## CHEMISTRY LABORATORY

This is a partial view of the chemistry laboratory of the Rose-Croix Science Building. The powerful microscopes shown aid the students in exploring the microcosmic world and disclosing nature's secrets.



THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST IMPERATOR

It was from here that Dr. H. Spencer Lewis, founder of the second cycle of the Rosicrucian Order for North and South America, directed its extensive activities.





VIEW OF SECTION OF STENOGRAPHIC DEPARTMENT

Many such assistants are occupied constantly in meeting the demands of the heavy daily correspondence.



## RECORDING DEPARTMENT

It is here that a complete record of each member is kept — records of addresses, date of entrance, dues, degree of study, progress. An extensive filing system is necessary.





## SECTIONAL VIEW OF MAILING DEPARTMENT

Here are operated all the modern devices for sealing, metering, stacking, and counting mail. Thousands of pieces monthly are sent to all parts of the world, constituting one of the largest mails on the Pacific Coast.

ROSE-CROIX RESEARCH INSTITUTE AND SANITARIUM

Rose-Croix Research Institute and Sanitarium where modern methods of therapeutics and healing are conducted.







EXTERIOR VIEW OF ROSICRUCIAN PRESS BUILDING

This artistic building is occupied exclusively by the Editorial, Art and Publishing Departments of "The Rosicrucian Press," for the preparation of our Literature, Magazines, and Books.